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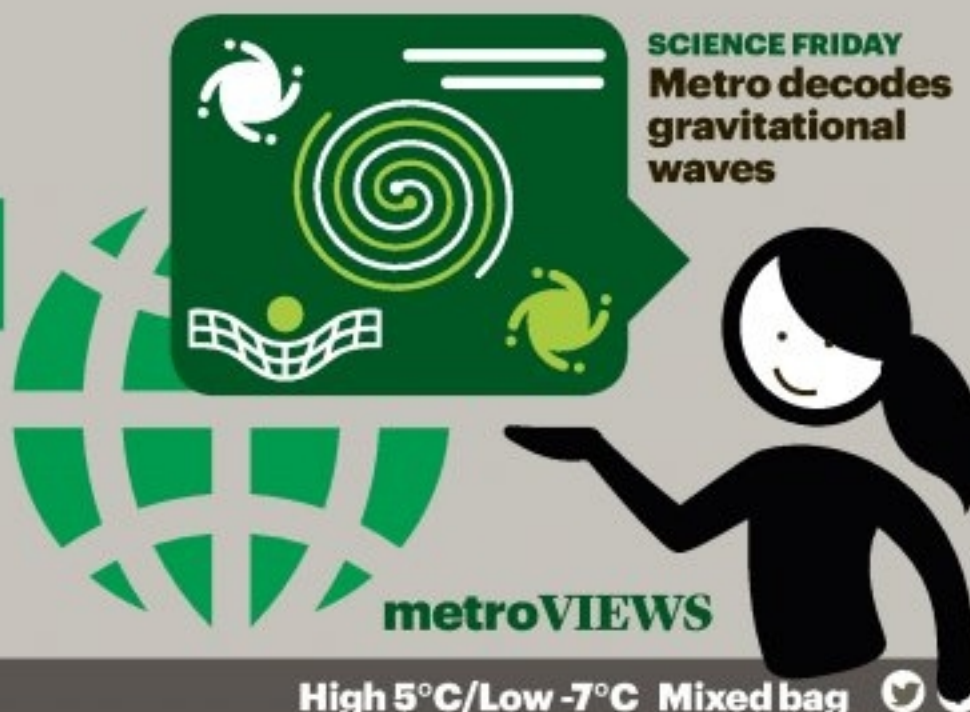


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WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 26-28, 2016

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Rodney Habib and his dog Sammie check 'likes' at home on Thursday.
JEFF HARPER/METRO

TOP DOG

Dartmouth pet blogger a Facebook sensation
metroNEWS

Ferry name a 'milestone'

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

Haligonians vote to name transit vessel Viola Desmond



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Seventy years after Viola Desmond took a stand by taking a seat in the whites-only section of a Nova Scotia movie theatre, it was announced on Thursday her name will be plastered on the newest Halifax Transit ferry. "When we think about what Viola Desmond stood for — in fact what she sat for — then we can certainly celebrate the fact that we now have a ferry that honours what she stood for, and that we can all look back and reflect on and be thankful for today," HRM African Nova Scotia Affairs Integration Office Advisor Késa Munroe-Anderson said after the announcement at the Black Cultural Centre in Cherry Brook.

"She is and was a civil rights leader of our own community and we're just thankful for her tenacity and strength that will live on."

Nova Scotia Communities, Culture and Heritage Minister Tony Ince said Thursday that while Viola Desmond wasn't given an annual holiday, "this is another step and a milestone."

"She stood up, and everybody is hearing it and recognizing that," he said. "When we have tourists and visitors come to the province, they're going to ask, 'Who is Viola Desmond?' That will then help us to repeat and tell that story and get it out to a wider audience."

North End Halifax resident Lindell Smith hopes it will get people at home thinking too.

"It's gonna create a movement where people are gonna want to know more about her, and hopefully that means people educate themselves, and schools will start to pick up that education," he said.

More coverage, page 8



WEEKEND SPECIALS FRI-SUN

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Resource centre to help preserve African culture

COMMUNITY-BUILDING

Provincial programs offer assistance to black families



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

The provincial government says new programs at the East Preston Family Resource Centre and across the province will help to preserve African Nova Scotian culture.

On behalf of Community Services Minister Joanne Bernard, Communities, Culture and Heritage Minister Tony Ince announced at the centre on Thursday "initiatives to include knowledge of African culture and values into services for parents" as part of the government's \$1.2-million Stronger Families NS plan.

Ince said the centre already has programs for "families experiencing complex economic and social issues."

"Now we have the opportunity to enhance this parenting journey by building in Afrocentric knowledge and values into the program."



Jessica Sampson-Williamson and her daughter Gabby, 3, smile at the East Preston Family Resource Centre on Thursday prior to a funding announcement. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Jessica Sampson-Williamson is one of those parents. She brings her four young children for a parenting program, and has used their pre-natal programs in the past. She said it's a "great resource for extra sup-

port" like donations of clothes and baby supplies, but it's the community benefits that keep her coming back.

"I think one of the most beneficial parts is the interaction with the other moms, and being able to get advice and exchange stories," she said.

Nyasha Sparks uses the centre for the same reason.

"We sit and discuss and talk,

and our kids can play, and everybody looks after each other," she said.

Ince announced Thursday that the Nurturing Strong African Nova Scotian Families program will train 12 facilitators to offer programs like the ones at the centre across the province.

He said the programs help to create and preserve cultural identity, giving the example

of a woman raising a mixed-race child.

"That child needs to have both sides of that equation so that they can understand who they are," he said.

"This will help to provide that because you've got someone who looks like me who can talk to another person, and maybe relate and deal with some of their issues or challenges."

GROUP HOME DEATHS

Calls for a dedicated advocate

Nova Scotia needs a dedicated child advocate following the deaths of at least 11 children under provincial care since 2004, including a 16-year-old girl found dead in a Halifax home over the weekend, the opposition Tories say.

"It's a fair idea. Why not give it a try," said Chris d'Entremont, the Progressive Conservative house leader.

He said the latest death, along with incidents of violence in youth group homes, show the province needs an independent and transparent system of oversight.

Even an Ombudsman's July 2014 recommendation calling for a dedicated team of bureaucrats to review deaths hasn't been completed, he said.

"These were pretty simple things to do. Just to say we're looking at it or thinking about it, I don't think is acceptable, especially in light of a child in care passing away," said d'Entremont, member of the legislature for Argyle-Barrington.

The opposition member was responding to the latest death of a young woman, who CTV News reported was in the care of the province at one of its group homes. The province has confirmed 10 children in its care died between 2004 and the end of 2014.

Kelly Regan, the acting minister of Community Services, told reporters Thursday she still couldn't confirm if the teenager in the latest death was in care, citing "privacy concerns."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

“It creates that cultural identity, it helps us bring that all together, and makes us who we are. Tony Ince

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Planet Paws' popularity profound

DARTMOUTH

Facebook taking notice of site's top pet blogger



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

In just six days he has reached almost 107 million people on Facebook, enjoyed 23.5 million engagements on his posts and garnered 45,039 new page likes.

He also has acquired 'Facebook Mentions' status, something reserved for actors, sports stars and other well-known public figures.

So Dartmouth-based blogger Rodney Habib was thrilled, but not surprised, to learn that he has the largest pet-nutrition-related Facebook page in the world.

"On Wednesday someone tried to hack me, and Facebook messaged me and we had a live conversation," Habib recalled.

"The Facebook employee and I chatted and she said 'These guys have spent a lot of money trying to shut your page down.' Within that conversation was when I was told 'You have the largest pet-nutrition-related site in the world.'"

Habib's social media presence has exploded since 2014. Last year, Facebook representatives came to Halifax to host a seminar for small business owners looking for tips to increase their Facebook presence.

Due to the popularity of his Planet Paws blog page, Habib was one of the speakers.

Last month Facebook told Habib he had to upgrade his personal page because so many people wanted to connect with



Rodney Habib is surrounded by some of his dogs at his Dartmouth home on Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

him outside of his Planet Paws page.

They congratulated him on the traffic going to his personal page and said he had reached "celebrity status."

"I can click a button on my phone and then your phone, your computer, all these people in the world, would get a message that will say 'Attention. Rodney Habib has something

live he wants to say,'" Habib explained.

"I have never used that feature ... I would never, ever press that button because what do I have to say to 100 million people to appear on their phone?"

Habib said he never dreamed his blog would grow to this level. He initially started it as a way to share information

about pet health and nutrition after experiencing frustration over food-related issues with his dogs.

"I'm not a doctor, I don't claim to be a nutritionist or to be the top in the world," he said.

"I call myself a blogger because I work with experts and I get to be the middle man. My job is to be a storyteller."



A buddy of mine messaged me on Facebook and says 'You are hitting over 100 million views. That's three times the size of your country and you live in Dartmouth. Where the hell is that place?' Rodney Habib

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CELEBRITY STATUS

The past few months have been busy ones for Dartmouth pet-nutrition blogger Rodney Habib.

In January he woke to a message from Facebook congratulating him and telling him he could no longer use the regular app.

He was instead being moved to a special app.

"If you click on it you'll see people like The Rock and Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga and people like this," he said.

"It's given to high-profile people, celebrities,

and they gave it to me. It's ridiculous."

As someone with celebrity "Facebook Mentions" status, Habib will have the ability to "Go Live."

Through the app, he'll be able to make announcements, start question and answer sessions, or share live videos and other items with his followers.

"My jaw is on the ground about how all of this has taken off," he said.

YVETTE D'ENTREMONT/METRO



Rodney Habib has reached the same Facebook status as **Dwayne Johnson, aka The Rock** (pictured). GETTY IMAGES



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Cpl. Al Hamilton

Elvis is the newest Police Dog Service recruit. RCMP/CONTRIBUTED

RCMP

Elvis joins K-9 unit

**Yvette
d'Entremont**
Metro | Halifax

The newest Nova Scotia RCMP canine recruit wants you to know that he's no hound dog.

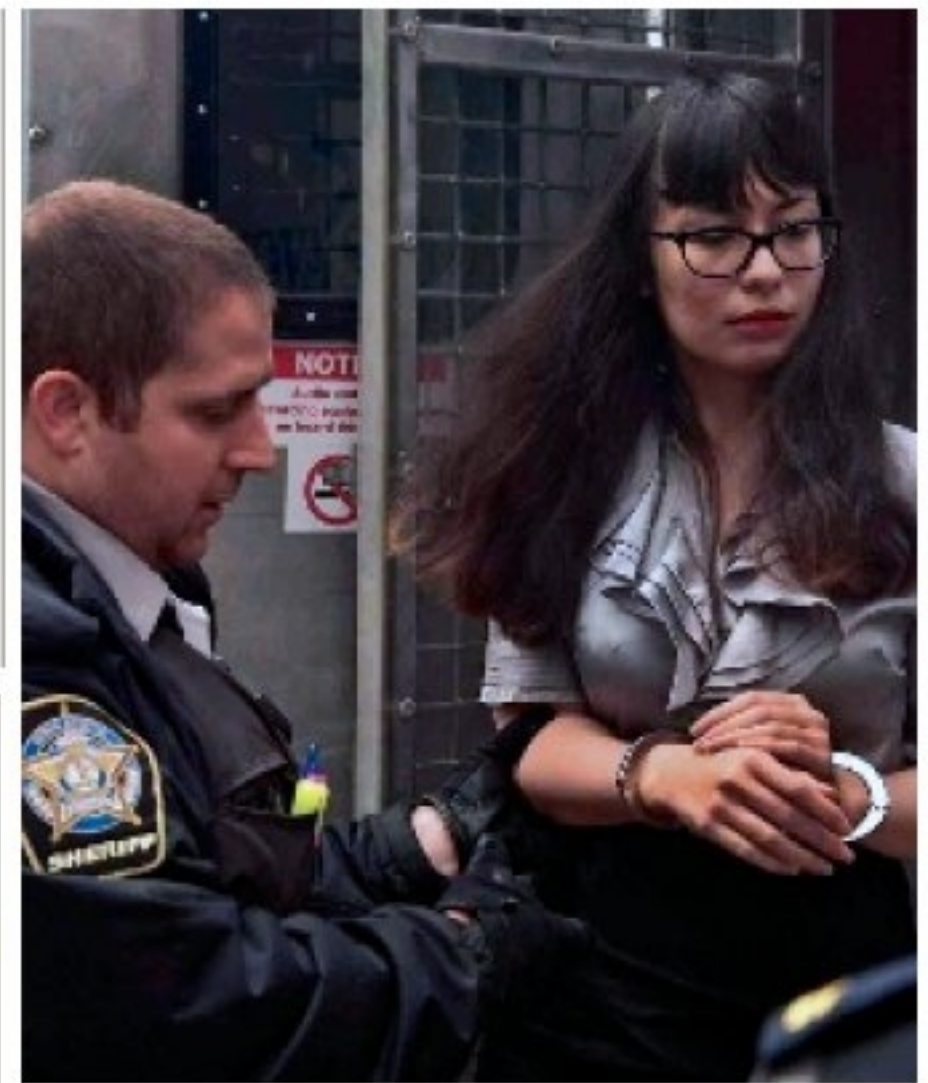
Elvis searches for drugs and objects, sweeps buildings, and provides back-up to the RCMP emergency response team.

Don't let his stubby snout fool you. The RCMP say he was born to sniff out T-R-O-U-B-L-E.

The three-year old German Shepherd arrived from Langley, B.C. in mid-February and has been working out of Truro with his handler, Cpl. Al Hamilton.

The RCMP explained a trusting bond inspires a dog to keep pursuing a suspect when they're exhausted. It is also what motivates a dog to protect their handler in life-threatening confrontations.

"You have to show your dog that you love them if you want a successful partnership," Hamilton said in a statement



Lindsay Souvannarath (shown) and her partner Randall Shepherd face several charges related to an alleged plot to shoot up a Halifax shopping mall. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTOS

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Couple face a joint trial

COURTS

Dates to be set to try pair on alleged plot

A couple accused of plotting a mass shooting at a Halifax mall made a brief court appearance Thursday as lawyers discussed potential trial dates.

Lindsay Souvannarath and Randall Shepherd didn't speak or show emotion as they sat in court during the hearing.

They are facing a joint trial on charges of conspiring to commit murder, conspiring to commit arson and uttering threats.

The two defence lawyers and the Crown said they'll meet

+ IN CUSTODY

Conspiracy charges

Lindsay Souvannarath and Randall Shepherd have been in custody since allegedly planning a shooting attack on Halifax Shopping Centre that would have been full of Valentine's Day shoppers last February.

again next month to check on dates for pre-trial issues and the trial's date and length.

Court heard that Justice James Chipman will hear the judge and jury trial in Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COLLISION

Woman charged with intent in crash

Police are investigating a two-vehicle crash where a female motorist is accused of intentionally hitting another driver with her vehicle.

Pictou County District RCMP were called to a collision on Sherbrooke Road in Coalburn where a car and a pickup truck had been damaged.

There were no injuries in the crash on Tuesday afternoon.

According to police, further investigation revealed the driver of the car struck the truck intentionally.

The 21-year-old driver of the car, Emma Halliday, was arrested, taken to court and charged with assault with a weapon and two counts of breach of an undertaking.

The investigation is ongoing. METRO HALIFAX

LARCENY

Public asked to help identify bank robber

Halifax Regional Police are asking for the public's assistance identifying a man suspected to be involved in a couple of bank robberies earlier this month.

The man was involved in an attempted robbery at the East Coast Credit Union, on 120 Kearney Lake Road in Halifax, after he tried to cash a cheque Feb. 10. Police say he allegedly jumped over the counter and began to open drawers, but unable to find any money, he fled the scene empty-handed.

Roughly an hour later, a man matching the same description of the first man, entered the Scotiabank on Sackville Drive in Lower Sackville. Police say he approached the teller and demanded money; he then fled the scene with a unknown amount of money.

The suspect is described as a white middle-aged man with a beard. He was dressed in a

dark tuque, black gloves and a green or grey hoodie tucked into tan overalls, as well as work boots.

Halifax Regional Police are asking anyone who has any information, or thinks they can identify the suspect, to contact them at 902-490-5020.

METRO HALIFAX



A still shot of the robbery. POLICE HANDOUT.

POLICE WATCHDOG

Death during arrest was justified: Probe

Nova Scotia's independent police watchdog says an RCMP officer was justified when he struggled to handcuff an unco-operative resident of a special-care home who later died.

The Serious Incident Response Team issued a statement Thursday saying that on Dec. 16 the officer was sent to the Valley View Villa in Riverton, where an employee had complained about a 49-year-old male resident.

The agency says the officer attempted to arrest the man under the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act after he became unco-operative with staff and uttered threats.

After a "significant struggle," the man was being handcuffed

on the floor when he lost consciousness and died a short time later.

The Medical Examiner's office concluded the man died from existing physical ailments combined with stress of the struggle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ USE OF FORCE

Investigation finds no fault

The Serious Incident Response Team says the man's medical condition led to his death, the officer's use of force was reasonable and there are no grounds to lay charges.



Facebook's logo is shown in this file photo. Authorities are asking any other victims to come forward. GETTY IMAGES

Police seek victims of Facebook extortion

ONLINE SCAM

Two men blackmailed after sending nude pictures

Dylan DesRoches
For Metro

Police are investigating after two Halifax men fell victim to a Facebook extortion scam, after they sent nude pictures to a stranger on Facebook.

The victims each accepted a Facebook friend request from

someone they didn't know, Halifax Regional Police say.

The suspect then started talking to the victim, and over time begins to encourage the victim to send images or videos of themselves performing sexual acts.

According to Halifax Regional Police spokeswoman Const. Dianne Woodworth, one of the men was forced to pay hundreds of dollars, after the suspect threatened to share the explicit photos with the victim's friends and family.

The scammer initially wanted a larger sum of money, but when the victim couldn't afford the sum, they began to barter.

“ (The public) shouldn't give into these people. Const. Dianne Woodworth

“We're putting this out there to alert the public that they shouldn't give into these people,” she said.

Though the only victims are currently both men, police warn everyone to be careful with who they send intimate pictures to.

“We just want to alert people that there is a risk, whether you know the person or especially

if you don't,” Woodworth said. “Anyone could be victimized by something like this.”

Police are asking any other victims to come forward, even if they may feel embarrassed. Woodworth said she wants victims to know they have done nothing wrong, and it's OK to come forward.

She did note for police to investigate, they do have to see pictures or videos the victims sent.

“In order for us to investigate this we have to see where the pictures were sent to. It's not overly comfortable,” she said.

“It's a means to an end to stop these people from victimizing people online.”

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Ferry named for black activist

TRANSPORTATION

Viola Desmond sat in theatre's whites-only section in 1946



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Haligonians spoke up loud and clear in the latest Halifax Transit ferry naming contest.

Out of 19,238 votes, 6,692 people voted for the new ferry to be called the Viola Desmond.

"That says that we know our history," HRM African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office advisor Késa Munroe-Anderson said after the announcement Thursday at the Black Cultural Centre in Cherry Brook.

"It's 2016, and it's about time that diversity and inclusion have their place within our society not only in terms of what we say, but in what we do and what we see."

"I think it shows that people realize how important of a figure she was, and how she contributed to, not only the Black story, but to the story of Nova Scotia," said North End Halifax resident Lindell Smith.

"For her to have that amount of votes show that people are now being educated, and realizing that this woman should be honoured."

"This tells the community, 'We hear you, we recognize it, and thank you,'" said Nova Scotia Communities, Culture and Heritage Minister Tony Ince.

Desmond made history in 1946 when she was arrested



Mayor Mike Savage, Késa Monroe-Anderson and Dave Reage unveil the new name of the Halifax Transit Ferry, which will be named after Viola Desmond. JEFF HARPER/METRO

and held in jail overnight for sitting in the whites-only section of a New Glasgow movie theatre.

She fought the charges against her, raising awareness of segregation across the country.

In 2010, the province apologized to Desmond, and she received a posthumous pardon.

Now, 70 years later, during Black History Month no less, the municipality is paying homage to Desmond.

"It's purely coincidental, but it's a very timely thing," said

Mayor Mike Savage after the announcement.

"Viola Desmond really crystallizes a lot of the things we respect about Nova Scotians: diversity, inclusion, and a preparedness to fight for it."

Pending approval by Transport Canada, the new ferry will hit the harbour this summer. The other nominees were fallen soldiers Pte. John Curwin, Maj. Gavin Rainnie, former Halifax mayor Ronald Wallace and Halifax Explosion hero Vincent Coleman.

+ NEW BOATS

The Viola Desmond

is the third of three new ferries to be added to the Halifax Transit fleet. The other two have been named after Christopher Stannix and Craig Blake, local military members who were killed while serving with the Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan.



The crowd at the Black Cultural Centre sings a song after hearing the new name. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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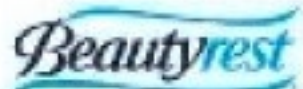
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While there was a drop in cross-border flights, **Stanfield International Airport** was still able to smash its previous passenger record in 2015. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Stanfield storms through snow to set a new record

TRANSPORT

New routes and over 3.7M flyers help airport to busiest year yet

Dylan DesRoches
For Metro | Halifax

Halifax's Stanfield International Airport was kept busy in 2015 — very busy.

Despite having to cancel nearly 1,400 flights in the first half of 2015 due to storms, the airport bounced back in the second half of the year to serve more than 3.7 million people — which is a record total for Stanfield.

The airport had slight increases in both the domestic sector and in international traffic, while cross-border flights from the United States dropped by 11 per cent.

Despite the drop in cross-border flights, traffic increased

due to the addition of new routes, including non-stop flights to Calgary, Deer Lake, Gander and Sydney.

"The snow had a big impact on us, so to actually get record-breaking growth was a huge accomplishment," said Ian Arthur, the chief commercial officer for the Halifax Airport Authority.

Arthur credits the airports success on the additional new flights that were added in the second half of 2015.

"Primarily a new WestJet

3,702,705

The total number of passengers that the Halifax Airport Authority said it served in 2015. It marked a significant increase on the previous year's final tally of 3,042,188.

service, which is now year-round in the Atlantic region," he said. "That boosted cap-

acity helped in the back half of the year."

Arthur hopes to continue the success of 2015 in 2016, by continuing to add new domestic flights and by increasing the amount of air cargo going through the airport.

"We're working hard, that's what we do."

The amount of cargo coming and going through the airport also increased slightly, from 32,003 metric tonnes in 2014 to 32,020 metric tonnes in 2015.

RADIO

Station will Mix things up

Halifax is going to have a little more '90s on its airwaves, as Radio 96.5 becomes Mix 96.5.

In a release issued Thursday, the Newcap radio station said it is looking to appeal to young listeners who enjoy hearing a variety of music on the radio.

"There are plenty of disenfranchised listeners who deserve a radio station for them," said Ken Geddes, general manager for Newcap Halifax. "Mix 96.5 is that radio station."

In 2013 the station made the switch from Kool 96.5, a '70s and '80s station, to Radio 96.5, a more modern station.

Mix, as it's now called, will be playing music from the '90s to modern-day hits like Adele, Coldplay, Mumford & Sons and Ed Sheeran. METRO

IN BRIEF

Alcohol sales creep up during Christmas quarter

The Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation says the total volume of alcohol sold was up 1.2 per cent in the quarter that included Christmas.

The NSLC says net income for the quarter running from late September to Dec. 27 was \$64.4 million — up \$2.4 million from the same period a year earlier.

Nova Scotia wine sales grew by 14.7 per cent, while craft beer sales were up 25.1 per cent to \$2 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WEATHER RAIN, WIND AND FERRY A commuter walks past a puddle near the ferry terminal on Thursday morning. Temperatures in the region soared to 13 C, but also brought rain and wind to the region. JEFF HARPER/METRO

School of 2 pupils ponders closure

BIG TANCOOK ISLAND

Island resident argues kids are too small for long commute

The future of one of Canada's last remaining one-room schools is in question because there is only one student registered to attend in September on the small island off Nova Scotia's southern coast.

Big Tancook Island resident Hillary Dionne says it's now up to the South Shore Regional School Board to decide whether

to keep the eight-kilometre-long island's elementary school open.

Dionne was part of a committee struck to examine the future of the school and it made a presentation to the board on Wednesday asking it to keep the primary to Grade 5 school open.

Dionne says there are safety concerns about sending small children on a daily ferry commute to Chester, which would also extend the length of their school day by as much as four hours because of the ferry schedule.

She says there are currently two students who attend the is-

+ ENROLMENT

Hillary Dionne says there are a few families in the community whose children will start school in the coming years, and there could be another family moving to the area this year, which would add another student for September.

land school — its lowest enrolment ever — and their teacher has taught there for more than three decades.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOURISM

Province will continue to operate visitor info centres

Nova Scotia's Liberal government has promised not to cut the friendly tourist information kiosks that greet travellers touring the province.

Mark Furey, the province's business minister, said the option of dropping the six visitor information centres had been among several on the table in recent months — but the government decided it still needs employees to greet tourists in person.

He said the province is still considering changing its tourism model, perhaps providing information in buildings that also house fast-food and retail outlets.

The Nova Scotia General Employees Union, which represents workers at the centres, had expressed concerns along with the opposition parties that the province would close the centres.

The latest edition of the

province's main tourist publication, the Doers and Dreamers guide, removed locations of the centres, which employ about 70 people, from its provincial map.

In a news release Thursday, the province said the centres still play a role in promoting local tourism, though visitation of the centres has dropped in the last 10 years as tourists go online for information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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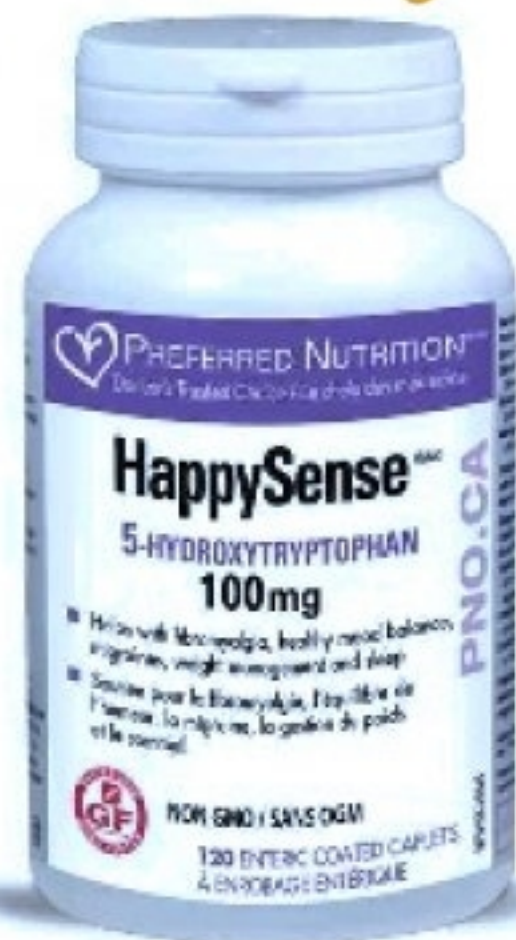
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Back to jail for Bantleman

INDONESIA

High court overturns acquittal of schoolteacher

Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion said the Canadian government "is deeply dismayed and shocked" by an Indonesian Supreme Court decision to overturn the acquittal of Canadian schoolteacher Neil Bantleman.

In its decision, the high court also ordered both Bantleman and an Indonesian teaching assistant to serve 11 years in prison instead of the 10 years they initially received for sexually abusing three young children at a prestigious international school in Jakarta.

Bantleman and Ferdinand Tijong were sentenced in April 2015 but maintained their innocence and filed appeals to the High Court, which acquitted them last August.

Supreme Court spokesman Suhadi said a three-member judge panel handed down its verdict on Wednesday based on

the prosecutors' appeal.

"The judge panel concluded that the defendants were proven to have violated the 2007 Child Protection Law," said Suhadi, who uses a single name. "It did not only reinstate the District Court's verdict but also lengthened the sentence to 11 years."

The pair were also ordered to pay a \$7,440 fine each or to serve six more months in jail.

Under Indonesian law, both Bantleman and Tijong still could challenge the sentence by filing for judicial review by the Supreme Court if they have new evidence.

"This decision is unjust, given the many grave irregularities throughout the various proceedings in this case and the fact that all evidence presented by the defence has systematically been rejected," Dion said in a statement early Thursday.

Chandra Saptaji, head of the general crime section at the South Jakarta Prosecutors' Office, said they are still looking for Bantleman, who is under a ban to leave the country. "Hopefully, he is co-operative and complying with Indonesia law."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canadian schoolteacher Neil Bantleman and wife Tracy after his release from Jakarta's Cipinang prison on Aug. 14, 2015. Bantleman has been ordered back to jail after his acquittal was overturned on Feb. 25. ROMEO GACAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

APPEAL

What's next

- The Indonesian Supreme Court has overturned the acquittal of Neil Bantleman in a decision that has "stunned" the Canadian schoolteacher's family.

What's his next legal step?

- Bantleman's brother, Guy, says the family will apply for a judicial review at the Supreme Court. Papang Hidayat, an Indonesia-based researcher with Amnesty International, has said a judicial review can be granted if the defence has new evidence to present. That evidence would be heard by a different panel of Supreme Court judges — usually three — than the ones who heard the case previously.

How about an appeal to the president?

- A convicted person can appeal directly to the president of Indonesia for clemency, Hidayat said, "but it's very rare, actually, for ordinary cases like this" for the president to get involved at all. Article 14 of the Indonesian Constitution gives the president the power to grant "clemency and restoration of rights" to prisoners after getting advice from the Supreme Court. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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BIRTHDAYS

Leapers face myriad annoyances

It's rare for Laura Pedersen to celebrate a birthday on the day she was actually born. The only thing less common for her is hassle-free paperwork.

Her status as a leap year baby ensures that genuine birthday festivities are only possible once every four years. That same Feb. 29 birth date also creates day-to-day hassles that are all too common.

Online application forms insist leap day doesn't exist. Official insurance forms document the wrong birthday. And no matter what administrative process she's trying to tackle, she inevitably faces questions as to whether she was, in fact, born on leap day.

"We got married this past summer ... and when I wrote my birthday down, the commissioner asked me several times: 'You're sure that it's Feb. 29, right?'" Pedersen said.

Skepticism about a Feb. 29 birthday is widespread, according to one organization that was formed in part to combat it.

The Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies was created in 1997 not only to celebrate the unusual date, but to raise awareness of the challenges associated with it and to advocate for those affected by such hassles.

Co-founder Peter Brouwer will celebrate his 15th leap day birthday in Vancouver this year — he'll be 60, for those who

LEAP YEAR FUN FACTS

Ever wondered why we have leap year? Here are a few facts to bring you up to speed:

Why do leap years exist?

Leap year is the reason that seasons occur at the same time each year. According to the Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies, the Earth takes 365.24 days to make a complete cycle around the sun. Every four years, therefore, the world would be a full day out of sync with the calendar.

How does it work?

According to Irv Bromberg at the University of Toronto, "the Gregorian calendar has a 400-year repeat cycle, in which every year number divisible by four (2016, for example) has a leap day appended to February, except if the year number is divisible by 100, in which case it is a leap year only if the year number is also divisible by 400." For instance, the year 2000 was a leap year, while 1900 was not. Got that?

struggle with multiplication. He says inconveniences caused by corporate or technological failure to recognize the day has resulted in serious problems for decades for leapers.

Leapers have experienced everything from webpage shut-downs to halted banking transactions due to the lack of familiarity with the date by authorities. He even recalled a society member who was accused of using a falsified driver's licence because of his date of birth.

The society mounted a few tongue-in-cheek campaigns along with more serious efforts to have companies reappraise their ef-

forts to accommodate leapers.

Brouwer said recent years have seen a decisive shift in leapers' favour.

"I think things have really improved," he said. "I have not had a problem entering Feb. 29 anywhere since I can remember."

Pedersen too said things are getting easier, adding sites like Facebook that once gave her a hard time now acknowledge her unusual birth date and accurately share it with others.

The shift is significant enough that future generations may find themselves embracing Feb. 29 rather than cursing it as a nuisance. THE CANADIAN PRESS



TORONTO ZOO POLAR BEAR BORN ON REMEMBRANCE DAY NAMED JUNO A polar bear cub born at the Toronto Zoo on Nov. 11 last year has been given a name that's in keeping with her date of birth: Juno. The name commemorates the beach in northern France where Canadian troops landed as part of the Second World War D-Day invasion in June 1944. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds repeal provisions

CITIZENSHIP

Liberals to make good on election promise

The Liberal government has introduced new legislation to remove barriers to citizenship erected by its Conservatives predecessors while retaining and extending officials' authority to deal with fraud.

The changes, expected to be implemented this year, will provide greater flexibility for applicants trying to meet the requirements for citizenship and help immigrants become full-fledged Canadian citizens sooner, said Immigration Minister John McCallum.

The government will also fulfil a significant campaign promise by repealing the controversial provisions introduced by the Tories last May that allow authorities to take away citizenship from dual citizens for "acts against national interest."

"We are honouring all of the commitments on which we were elected," said McCallum.

"A Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian. It's not up to the government to revoke citizenship. We want to facilitate the

process of people becoming Canadian citizens while retaining program integrity."

Despite the proposed changes, immigration officials still have the power to revoke citizenship if it was obtained by false representation or fraud, while the federal court continues to be able to remove the citizenship of those involved in organized crime, war crimes and crimes against humanities.

However, what matters most to would-be citizens would be the proposed changes to citizenship requirements:

- Repealing the intent to reside provision that raised immigrants' fear that their citizenship could be revoked if they moved outside of Canada.

- Reducing the length of time that someone must be physically present in Canada to qualify for citizenship from four out of six years to three out of five.

- Allowing time in Canada before permanent residency to count toward physical residency requirements, which would benefit refugees and those previously in Canada on study or work permits.

- Amending the age range for language and citizenship knowledge exams, allowing those under 18 or older than 54 to be exempted.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NAVY TRADITION

Same-sex kiss makes military history

Master Seaman Francis Legare made Canadian Navy history this week when the HMCS Winnipeg docked in Victoria and he greeted his partner Corey Vautour.

The couple embraced and kissed in what was the "first kiss" between a male sailor returning from sea and his male partner.

It's a time-honoured Navy tradition that there's a raffle to decide which sailor is allowed off a ship first to kiss a loved one after an extended time at sea, acting Sub-

Lt. Kyle Reed said.

This time, Legare won the draw and the right to kiss Vautour after spending almost nine months away from home.

It's the first same-sex kiss for males, but it's not the first same-sex kiss ever.

"It's a very positive thing," said Reed, who added that the encounter showcases a "more inclusive, more tolerant" Navy.

There was a same-sex kiss in the spring of 2015 between a female member of the Navy and

her female partner at CFB Esquimalt, Reed said.

On Thursday, a crowd cheered as Legare kissed Vautour, who was carrying a "Welcome Home Sailor" sign.

The money from the raffle goes to charity.

The HMCS Winnipeg, which has a crew of 250, toured the Caribbean and eastern Pacific in an operation that included a multinational campaign against drug-trafficking in the Caribbean and Pacific. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Francis Legare kisses Corey Vautour. CONTRIBUTED

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FATALITIES

Mumbai declares 16 no-selfie zones

Look around in any major Indian city, and you will find someone with an arm outstretched, mobile phone in hand, smiling widely and clicking away. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi has embraced the medium, posting pictures online he's snapped with various world leaders.

But the pursuit of the most epic selfie can have lethal consequences.

India is home to the highest number of people who have died while taking photos of themselves, with 19 of the world's 49 recorded selfie-linked deaths since 2014, according to San Francisco-based data service provider PricewaterhouseCoopers. The statistic may in part be due to India's sheer size, with 1.25 billion citizens and one of the world's fastest-growing smartphone markets.

Alarmed by the trend, Mumbai has declared 16 no-selfie zones across the city, as authorities warn people against taking unnecessary risks.

Earlier this month, an 18-year-old college student on a class picnic lost his balance while taking a selfie atop a rock near

a dam near the central Indian city of Nashik. He fell into the water and drowned, along with a classmate who jumped in to try to save him.

Last month, an 18-year-old woman fell and drowned in the sea while taking a photo of herself at Mumbai's Bandstand Fort, a popular tourist spot.

After the woman's death last month, the city's police conducted a survey to identify such dangerous places, police official Dhananjay Kulkarni said. The city also plans to run an awareness campaign. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ PHOTO FINISH

Fines set at 1,200 rupees

In Mumbai, police have declared selfies off-limits in areas perceived as risky, such as coastline locations with no railings or barriers. Anyone venturing into off-limits areas, even if they take no photos, risks being slapped with a fine of 1,200 rupees, or about \$18. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



An Indian family takes a selfie in Mumbai's coastline.

RAFIQ MAQBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Court OKs razing of migrant camp

FRANCE

State to evict hundreds of refugees from site near Calais

A French court gave the state the green light Thursday to raze makeshift tents and lean-tos used by hundreds of migrants at a sprawling camp in Calais, where many dream of slipping into Britain.

Tamping down fears of a violent confrontation, France's interior minister promised to

treat the migrants humanely and not send in bulldozers to evict them.

The camp in the northern port city — known as "the jungle" — has been an embarrassing chapter in Europe's migrant crisis, and France announced this month that its densely populated southern half would be razed. The move prompted rights groups and migrant advocates to sue.

The court in Lille ruled that the makeshift shelters used by the migrants can be destroyed — but that common spaces like places of worship, schools and a library must be left standing.

Calais' prime location — with a major ferry port, Euro-tunnel rail system and truck traffic crossing the English Channel — has put it in the crosshairs of the migrant crisis.

Officials say moving migrants out of the Calais site will be a better solution for all, since many have been languishing in poverty and hopelessness after nearby borders have been sealed by increasing security.

Officials estimate the number of migrants who will be affected at 800 to 1,000, while humanitarian organizations say over 3,000 migrants live there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 A man talks on the phone in the "Jungle," a migrant and refugee camp in Calais. On Thursday, a French court gave the green light to plans to evacuate hundreds of migrants from the notorious makeshift camp. DENIS CHARLET/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

2 A child rides his bicycle in the makeshift camp for migrants. In November, the state said the number of minors without families in the camp was 326. JEROME DELAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 A Pakistani migrant selling cigarettes stands in his shop in the camp known as the "Jungle." DENIS CHARLET/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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EXTREME WEATHER

Midwest buffeted by storm systems

Tornadoes tore through towns as far north as Pennsylvania, heavy snow cancelled hundreds of flights in the Midwest and power outages left tens of thousands of residents from the Carolinas to New England in the dark as severe weather raked across a broad swath of the country for a third day.

The storms Wednesday claimed at least a half-dozen lives, three of them in the tiny town of Waverly, Va., where a two-year-old child and two men, ages 50 and 26, were killed during the storm, said Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller. Their bodies were found about 300 yards from their mobile home.

At least five structures were damaged in the town of approxi-



A powerful storm destroyed homes on the East Coast.

JILL NANCE/THE NEWS & ADVANCE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

mately 2,000 and roads leading into town had to be closed because of downed trees and debris tossed by winds gusting to 60 mph, Geller said. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe declared a state of emergency Wednesday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

SeaWorld admits putting plant in animal rights group
SeaWorld acknowledged that it sent its own workers to infiltrate an animal rights group that opposed the practices of the theme park. SeaWorld Entertainment CEO Joel Manby vowed Thursday to end the practice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Most ISIL bombs made with civilian parts: Report

The Islamic State group relies on commercially available components for most of its bombs, according to a report by a London-based research group. Conflict Armament Research says many components are also used for civilian purposes, such as mining, making them relatively easy to get. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Spend to spur growth: OECD

ECONOMY

Organization says Canada must invest in job creation

The Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development has lent its voice to growing calls for more government spending in response to slowing global growth, a policy Canada's government is already planning to pursue in its first federal budget.

Amid persistently low oil prices and a slowing growth in China, the global economy urgently needs a stronger and more co-ordinated policy response to create jobs, the OECD said in its annual Going for Growth report.

Measures specific to Canada could include more support for research and development, better access to post-secondary education, an end to restrictions on foreign investment in telecom and broadcast companies, and privatizing Canada post, the agency said.

The OECD also called for greater government investment in infrastructure projects to create

jobs and boost economic growth.

"Today's exceptionally low interest rates improve governments' fiscal space, affording a unique opportunity to make investments in infrastructure that will boost demand, stoke growth and actually improve public finances," OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría said in a statement released ahead of the two-day gathering.

The report was to be released Friday in Shanghai at the start of a G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors.

As an oil producing and exporting nation, Canada has been particularly hit hard by the dramatic plunge in the global price of crude from \$100 US a barrel in June 2014 to \$30 US.

The Canadian government under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has pledged to boost infrastructure spending in its first federal budget, to be presented March 22, even though it will mean running a higher federal deficit. Both the OECD and the International Monetary Fund lowered their forecasts for global growth on persistently low prices for crude oil and concerns about weakness in China's economy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau takes part in a plenary session at the G20 Summit in Antalya, Turkey, in November. An OECD report to be released Friday at the G20 meeting in Shanghai will lend its voice to growing calls for more government spending in response to slowing global growth. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ ACTION PLAN

- Move toward more competitive electricity markets. Sell Canada Post to eliminate its monopoly.
- Reduce foreign investment barriers by lifting restrictions in telecommunications, airlines and broadcasting.
- Reform the tax system by increasing environmental and value-added taxes and reducing regressive income-tax expenditures to further lower corporate and personal tax rates.
- Enhance access to post-secondary education using income-contingent loans and needs-based grants.
- Improve research and development policies by lowering the refundable small-firm Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) rate to raise grants and allocate them competitively.

BEER

Molson recreates 1908 ale

Molson Coors Canada says it's offering a limited release pale ale brewed from a 108-year-old recipe found deep in the company's archives.

Molson Coors says John H.R. Molson and Bros. 1908 Historic Pale Ale was created to celebrate its 230 years of brewing in Canada.

The company says its brewmasters "worked tirelessly" to authentically recreate the pale ale of 1908, right down to the most minute details.

"We sat down with malsters, barley and hops breeders from across the globe to identify the correct ingredients to mix with Molson's ancient ale yeast derived from the same primordial strand John Molson used in the 1700s," said brewmaster Keith Armstrong.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



CONTRIBUTED

HOUSING

Canadians feeling cost of the real-estate squeeze: Poll



Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Nearly half of people living in urban Canada say they're being squeezed by the cost of real estate, even in cities where prices pale in comparison to Vancouver and Toronto's sky-high markets, results of a new poll show.

Fifty-six per cent of Canadians, including those living in smaller real estate markets say housing prices in their neighbourhoods fall outside of what's

"reasonable," according to an Angus Reid Institute poll.

In Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Montreal and Halifax, no fewer than 45 per cent of respondents view prices as either "high" or "unreasonably high," the poll results show. According to January data from the Canadian Real Estate Association, the percentage of people who feel that way also roughly mirrors the actual average cost of a home in each city.

Earlier this month, the federal government introduced new mortgage rules that require

45%

About 45 per cent of those polled in Edmonton, Calgary, Montreal and Vancouver said prices were "high" or "unreasonably high."

homebuyers to put down larger down payments for properties over \$500,000. The changes are intended to temper some of the country's heated real estate markets, especially targeting

56%

Inclusive of homebuyers living in smaller markets, 56 per cent say housing prices fall outside what's "reasonable."

markets like Vancouver and Toronto where there are more properties worth \$500,000 or more, according to the government.

While it remains to be seen if

that actually happens, the poll results reveal that seven per cent of Canadians say the new rules would make them less likely to buy property this year.

The online survey of 5,867 Canadian adults who are members of the Angus Reid Forum was conducted between Feb. 2 and 10. The survey has a margin of error of 1.3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Another survey of 1,513 Angus Reid Forum members was conducted Feb. 15 and has a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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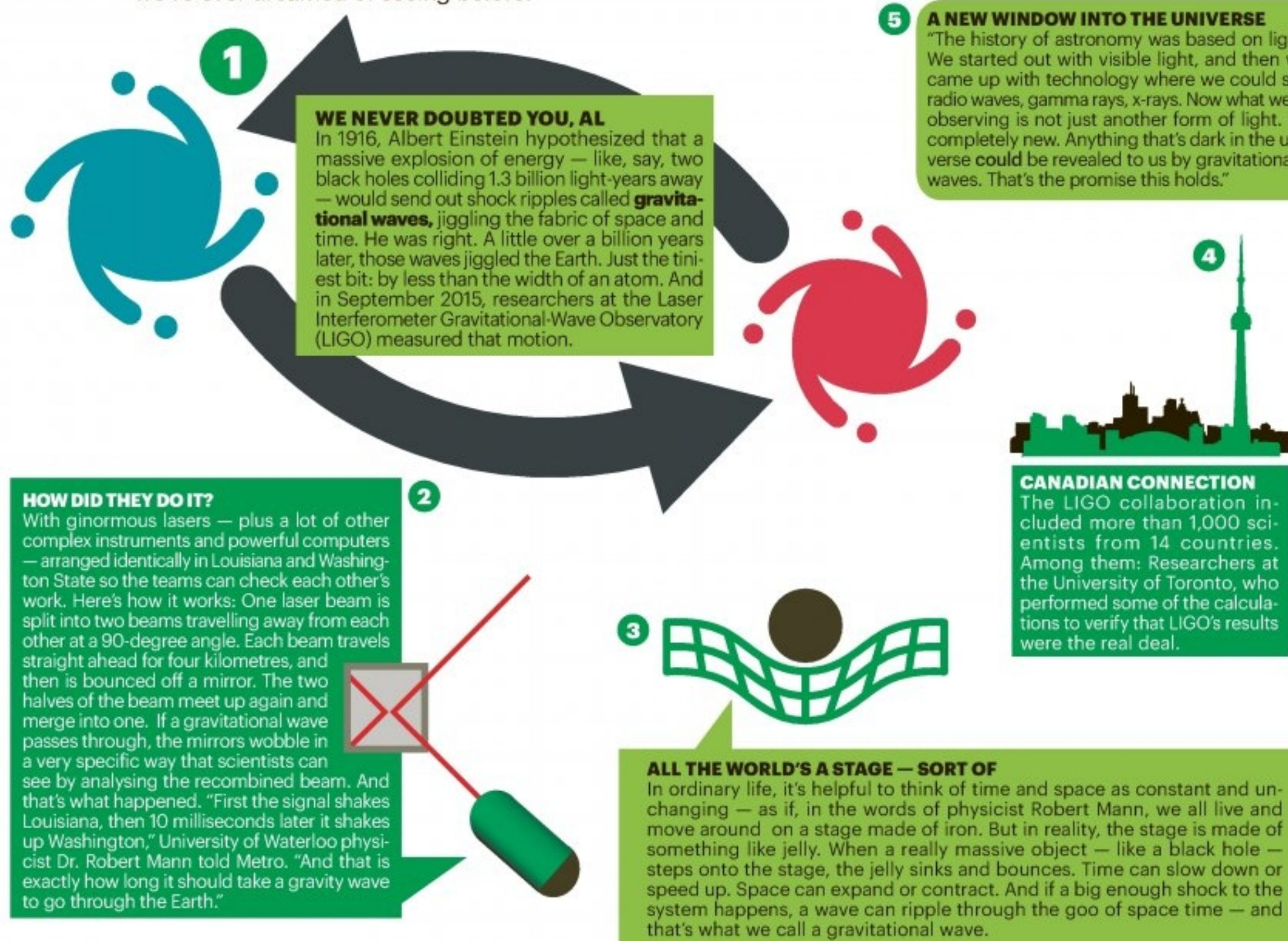
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DECODED

Gravity does the wave

Nice job, Einstein. It's been a century since the super-smart physicist predicted the existence of **gravitational waves**, and three weeks since scientists announced they've directly detected them for the first time. It took us that long to stretch and warp our minds enough to understand how it is that space and time can be stretched and warped. Turns out this once-in-a-lifetime discovery is not as complicated as it seems — but way cooler: It's a potential new tool to observe more of "what's out there" than we've ever dreamed of seeing before.



Dr. Eric Poisson,
Gravitational physicist
University of Guelph

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Citizen Scientist

Will talcum powder give me ovarian cancer?

QUESTION

I read this week that Johnson & Johnson had to pay \$72 million to the family of a woman who died of ovarian cancer caused by talcum powder. I'm in my 60s and have used talcum powder for half my life. I'm officially terrified!
Sincerely,
Sandy in Winnipeg

Dear Sandy,

The most important thing to know is that it's highly unlikely you'll get ovarian cancer, whether you use talc or not. About 1.3 per cent of women get ovarian cancer in their lifetimes. The greatest effect any study linking talc use to ovarian cancer showed around a 30 per cent increase in relative risk — meaning talc

users would have something like a 1.69 per cent risk of getting ovarian cancer one day.

Johnson & Johnson lost its lawsuit because people in the corporation were told about the link and did not act on it.

But the evidence for the connection is mixed. Unlike smaller, older research papers on this issue, newer studies with larger samples mostly

failed to find increased cancer rates among talc users — including women who put baby powder in a diaphragm (Ew). I suspect that the link is a hang-over from the pre-1970s days when talcum contained asbestos, which does cause cancer.

Got a burning science question? Email scene@metronews.ca

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

THE SYMBOL AND THE METAPHOR ARE AS NECESSARY TO SCIENCE AS TO POETRY.



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STYLISH STARS ARE THEY CUT OUT FOR THESE LOOKS?

Metro's Oscar fashion panel suggests three gowns ahead of Sunday's show. Dress the dolls yourself by clipping them out! **NICHOLE JANKOWSKI** METRO

Brie Larson



Jillian Vieira is the fashion editor at The Kit, Canada's 360-degree beauty & style leader.

We've already seen Brie favour sexy cut-outs and slinky silhouettes this awards season. As a serious best actress contender, I'd love for her to have a cool-girl princess moment in a dramatic, tulle-heavy Giambattista Valli.

@DANIESQUE

Known to favour feminine silhouettes, Brie could seriously rock a Delpozo dress. She's already proven that she can wear colour — and Delpozo's ability to pair nearly-fluorescent hues with neutrals and pastels is unmatched.

@MICHELLEADDISONSTYLE

If I was her stylist I'd try to get her in a Giambattista Valli frock (think Rihanna at the 2015 Grammys). Since her fellow nominees are known to wear lighter colours, I'd like to see her stand out in a darker hue.

Lupita Nyong'o



Michelle Addison is one of Vancouver's top stylists. Catch her fashion segments on CTV Morning Live.

Colour, colour and more colour. Nothing could stop this lady from being the centre of a room. She loves classic cuts and unfussy fashion. I would love to see her in yellow or gold. Oscar de la Renta or Calvin Klein would be good choices for her.

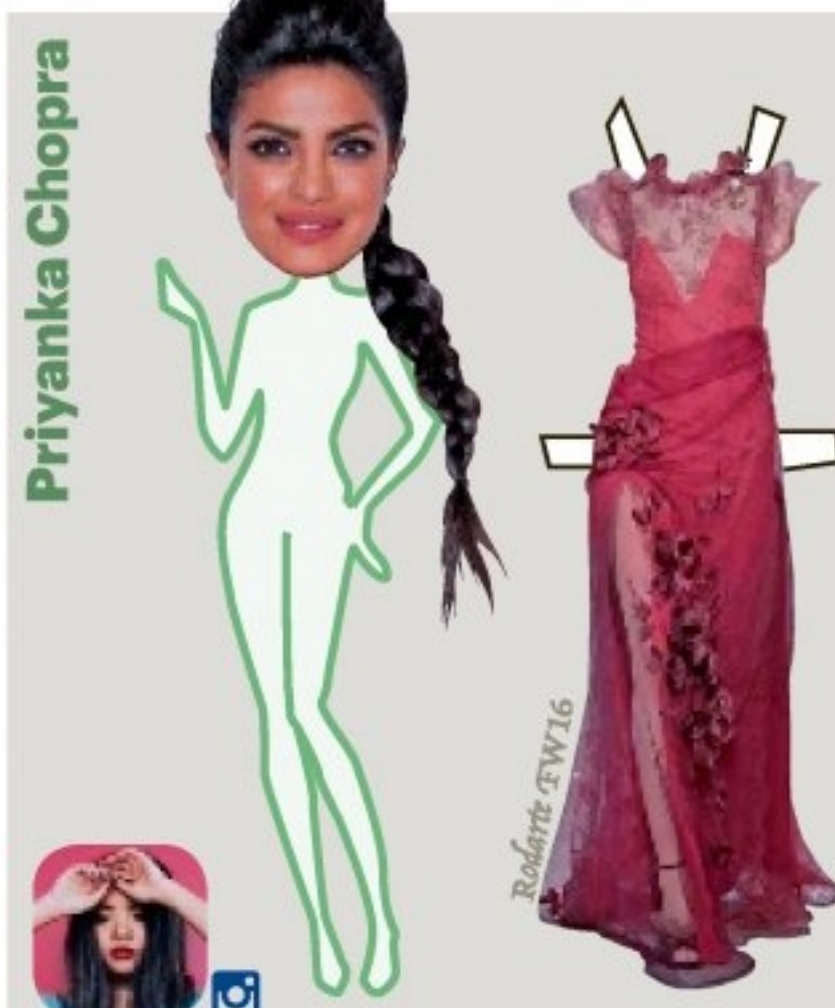
@JILLIANVIEIRA

There's very little Lupita can't pull off: flapper dresses, Grecian gowns and a one-piece column dress with cape have all earned her sartorial praise. A couture jumpsuit (à la Dior) would really solidify her Red Carpet Queen status.

@DANIESQUE

I'd love to see Lupita in Sid Neigum. While beautiful, her red carpet looks all follow similar silhouettes. Sid is known for dramatic, structured designs. Lupita could definitely pull off one of his runway-ready looks.

Priyanka Chopra



Dani Roche is a designer, creative director, and the owner of Kastor & Pollux, a Toronto design and experiences agency.

Rodarte is known for their fairy-tale-like esthetic, innovative use of materials, and unconventional details — and one of their dreamy dresses would be a great fit for Priyanka, who typically opts for embellished gowns on the red carpet.

@MICHELLEADDISONSTYLE

While it's likely Priyanka will choose white to present, I'd like to see her in red or even dusty rose. She should stay away from black and metallics. I would love her to wear American/Indian Designer Naeem Khan or even Dior.

@JILLIANVIEIRA

Priyanka has the bold-colour-plus-body-hugging look mastered, which is why I'd like to see her graduate to new textures and fits. A draped, net-like dress (in an uber-flat-ting metallic finish like at Valentino) would do the trick.

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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN



The Oscars provide me with an excuse to make an elaborate meal out of snacks, fancy wine and frozen food

Right after a commercial break during the Academy Awards in 1987, the camera landed on host Chevy Chase. He was picking his nose. As a 12-year-old, this was the funniest thing I'd ever seen on television. I haven't missed an Oscar ceremony since.

I love them, although not everyone does. "The next morning, we all complain about how boring it was," New York Times film critic A.O. Scott recently wrote. "The morning after that we forget it all until the next year, when the show finds new ways to disappoint us." But Mr. Scott, the disappointments are half the fun! Out of Africa outperforming both Witness and The Color Purple; Chariots of Fire upstaging On Golden Pond; Forest Gump eclipsing Pulp Fiction and The Shawshank Redemption; Crash over any other movie ever made! And what about the upsets? Crowd pleasers, like Rocky, beating All the President's Men, Network and Taxi Driver in 1976, and more recently in 2010 The King's Speech reigning over True Grit, Winter's Bone and The Social Network.

This year, however, disappointment lies more with the Academy itself. For the second year in a row they've failed to nominate a minority for best acting, which will undoubtedly provide pointed material for Chris Rock, who

will have his second crack at hosting the awards on Sunday night.

The Academy's president promises to fix this by reviewing recruitment efforts.

"In a way, the scandal of this year's nominees confirms what too few of us in our profession are willing to admit: that the Oscars don't matter except insofar as they provide answers to future trivia questions," Scott said.

Maybe — but they also provide me with an excuse to make an elaborate meal out of snacks, fancy wine and frozen food, which has been my Oscar spread for a decade now: I'm talking crostini topped with charcuterie, cheese, bruschetta-style tomatoes, guacamole, a shrimp ring, plus jalapeño poppers and mozzarella sticks, all washed down with a Nuits-Saint-Georges Burgundy.

There's not really a main course, although the calorie count easily surpasses 2,000. The point is that I can graze during the three-hour ceremony while I'm watching Twitter for fashion analysis, desperately looking for Jack Nicholson's return to the front row, tallying how many Oscars Spotlight picks up and trying to stay awake to see Leo finally get his Academy Award.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.



THE OSCARS

#OscarsSoWhite reflects Academy Awards' cultural disconnect

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



A friend is boycotting the Academy Awards because his favourite film of 2015, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, didn't make the Oscar's Best Picture list.

The awards, he says, aren't relevant because they ignore genre movies and in this particular case, have snubbed the most financially successful film of the year. In fact, the old canard that the Academy doesn't honour genre movies with Best Picture nods has been shot down this year with nominations for The Martian and Mad Max: Fury Road.

The Oscar folks also gave The Force Awakens five nominations and in recent years Inception, Avatar, District 9, Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King and Django Unchained have all earned top nods with Avatar and LOTR taking home the gold.

Genre movies do just fine with the Academy. No need for C-3PO to cry little metal tears. To the Academy's credit, not recognizing the year's box office behemoth while giving Room, a modestly grossing movie, Best Picture, Actress, Directing and Adapted Screenplay nods, actually suggests the Academy will not be wowed by wheelbarrows of cash.

Perhaps the truth is that the Oscars, and awards shows in general, are only as relevant as you want them to be. Are they as important as the Republican debates? It's all just show biz, so maybe. Ultimately, unless you're an actor, a director or a shareholder in a

nominated film the Oscars are probably not extremely significant to your life. I pay attention to them as a function of my job, and I enjoy them, but this year I'm on board with my friend but for different reasons.

I'm disappointed in Oscar's failure to acknowledge diversity. For the second year in a row all 20 acting nominations went to white actors. To be clear I'm not implying the Academy is overtly racist. There are too many voters for there to be a conspiracy to keep actors of colour out of the headline categories. Have you ever gone to a restaurant with more than 10 people and tried to get everyone to agree on an appetizer for the table? It's nearly impossible. Now imagine trying to arrange collusion between 6,000 members of the Academy. Totally hopeless.

So if it's not a conspiracy why were stellar performances from Creed's Michael B. Jordan, The Hatefule Eight's Samuel L. Jackson, Sicario's Benicio Del Toro, Beasts of No Nation's Idris Elba or any of Straight Outta Compton's top line cast not nominated? I think it's a combination of studio decision makers, who tend to be white, male and older coupled with the same demographic of voters at the Academy.

It's a systemic issue being addressed by Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs' effort to mould the Academy's membership to be more in line with the population.

Until the Oscars represent the full width and breadth of the best in Hollywood, regardless of race or gender, they will continue to slide toward irrelevancy. My guess is that the most interesting part of this year's ceremony won't be who wins Best Actor but host Chris Rock's opening monologue, which, if the movie gods prevail, will address the situation in no uncertain terms. It's a speech I'm predicting will be just as entertaining and provocative as any of the nominees, Star Wars: The Force Awakens included.

ACADEMY AWARDS AS LIGHTNING ROD

Outspoken at the Oscars

This year the #OscarsSoWhite movement made the Academy Awards a lightning rod for debate but the diversity issue is only the latest Oscars controversy.



1 Marlon Brando

In 1973 Marlon Brando made headlines when he sent Sacheen Littlefeather to refuse the Best Actor statue for his work in The Godfather. In a prepared statement she said Brando declined the award because of "the

treatment of American Indians today by the film industry and on television and in movie reruns." The speech was met with boos and later Clint Eastwood said, "I don't know if I should present this award on behalf of all the cowboys shot in John Ford westerns over the years," as he presented the Best Picture award.

2 Vanessa Redgrave

Five years later as the Jewish Defense League burned effigies of pro-Palestinian activist Vanessa Redgrave outside the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Julia actress accepted the Best Actress award inside. Drawing gasps from the audience she said she "refused to be intimidated by the threats of a small bunch of Zionist hoodlums." Later screenwriter Paddy Chayefsky said, "I'm sick and tired of people exploiting the Academy Awards for the propagation of their own personal propaganda," to rapturous applause.



3 Sarandon and Robbins

Chayefsky's scolding didn't seem to stick as actors continued to use the Oscar stage as a platform. In 1993 a trifecta of actors made the ceremony the most political ever. Best Film Editing presenters Susan Sarandon and Tim

Robbins criticized the government for incarcerating 266 HIV virus-infected Haitians in Guantanamo Bay while Richard Gere commented on human rights abuses in China. Show producer Gil Cates was outraged. "Does anyone care about Richard Gere's comments about China?" he said. "It's arrogant."

Weeknights at 6:30amish counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day.

6 SIX@6 LAST NIGHT:

6 Mike Posner
I Took A Pill In Ibiza

5 G-Eazy ft. Bebe Rexha
Me, Myself and I

4 Rihanna ft. Drake
Work

3 Selena Gomez
Hands To Myself

2 Travis Scott
Antidote

1 Zayn
Pillow Talk





Eddie (Taron Egerton), left, and his coach Bronson Peary (Hugh Jackman) rejoice in Eddie's triumph in *Eddie the Eagle*. CONTRIBUTED

New biopic champions last-place Olympic skier

EDDIE THE EAGLE

Tale of kitschy competitor a feel-good sports classic

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Eddie Edwards is a textbook example of a real-life folk hero. Just don't call the infamous ski jumper an underdog.

"People say it's an underdog story," explained filmmaker Dexter Fletcher while discussing his new Olympian biopic *Eddie the Eagle* recently. "But it's only an underdog story if he went I'm going to go win gold and did it. Eddie just wanted to get there."

Those who remember Eddie the Eagle's rock star rise during the 1988 Olympics in Calgary may recall how the bespectacled Brit won over spectators with a spirited, albeit below-average pair of last-place jumps. But of course, it wasn't his athleticism that inspired most fans.

"I've met people who saw him jump and they said 'we'd always go and watch him because you never knew what was going to happen'," said the 50-year-old actor-turned-director. "He was about getting to be an Olympian and that reaction that you got from the crowd at Calgary

was just about the natural exuberance of 'wow, I've achieved something I've always wanted to do!'"

Coincidentally, another quartet of kitschy competitors not only competed in the same Olympics, but also had a biopic produced about them. Although Fletcher hadn't planned on scouting other movies for motivation ahead of production, he does concede he caught *Cool Runnings*, the 1993 comedy about an unlikely bobsled team from Jamaica.

"I get why it works and I see where the similarities are and that's fine but our movie had to find our own identity, its own tone," said Fletcher. "Of course, that's what separates all these movies from the next."

After 40 years in showbiz, Fletcher should know a thing or two about making movies. A longtime London thespian that's appeared in everything from *The Elephant Man* to HBO's *Band of Brothers*, Fletcher may now enjoy extending his expertise behind the camera, but directing only came to him accidentally after shopping his first screenplay.

"I took it to some producers who just assumed that I wanted to direct it so I never told them any different," laughed Fletcher recalling his acclaimed 2011 directorial debut *Wild Bill*. "The film turned out well (so) I've been riding that wave ever since."

HOLLYWOOD'S TOP OLYMPIC FLICKS



Chariots of Fire (1981)

Perhaps more famous for its overbearing score by Vangelis, this Oscar-winning film tells the true story of two religiously-disparate runners competing to race at the 1924 Olympics in Paris.

Miracle (2004)

Kurt Russell sports a bad haircut and loud checkered pants to play real-life coach Herb Brooks who led a longshot American hockey team to gold at the Lake Placid Olympics in 1980.



Cool Runnings (1993)

Before finding gold with thrillers like *National Treasure*, filmmaker Jon Turteltaub fictionalized a family feature about the Jamaican squad that went from sitting on sunny Caribbean beaches to sliding down a snowy Olympic bobsled track in Calgary.

STEVE GOW/FOR METRO



REASONS TO WATCH THE FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

Can't get enough of Hollywood's award season? The *Film Independent Spirit Awards* is just the ticket. The star-studded annual event, now in its 31st year, honours the best achievements in independent film. The ceremony is held in a tent on Santa Monica Beach, with a dollop of Oscar pageantry and a full helping of Golden Globe irreverence. It's a chance to see the industry's top talent chill out, pat each other on the back, and potentially say something they'll regret for a full year. Here are 5 other reasons to tune in:

1. The hosts. What do Kristen Bell, Steve Coogan, John Waters and Seth Rogan have in common? They've all hosted the Spirit Awards. This year, the show boasts Kate McKinnon and Kumail Nanjiani. McKinnon is a current *Saturday Night Live* cast member, famous for her dead-on impressions (including Justin Bieber!). Her co-host, Nanjiani, is an accomplished stand-up with a growing resume of feature films, including *Sex Tape* and *Hot Tub Time Machine 2*.

2. Behind the scenes bits. Last year, Fred Armisen's hysterical parody of *Birdman* saw him bob frantically through the show's backstage on a single-take adventure that led him to find actor Miles Teller pounding a live drum kit — a reference to Teller's Spirit-nominated film *Whiplash*.

3. Sauciness in the spotlight. Nothing says "unceremonious" like the promotional-size bottles of booze on every table at this gala dinner. This show is the setting for such moments as Michael Moore famously condemning George W. Bush. It's the setting for Jared Leto, accepting the award for Best Supporting Male for *Dallas Buyers Club*, who thanked everyone from Pink Floyd to the inventor of the zipper.

4. The unexpected takes centre stage. Anything can happen. Like the time director Michel Hazanavicius arrived with a full police escort from LAX just in time to receive his Best Director award for *The Artist*.

5. A real connection to film. Sure, it's cool to see everyone from Daniel Radcliffe and Bradley Cooper to Jane Fonda and Bruce Willis breaking bread and chugging drinks together. But it's even cooler to know why they're there. The show helps filmmakers make their movies, it builds an audience for their projects and helps diversify the film industry.

Watch the exclusive Canadian broadcast of the Film Independent Spirit Awards live on Hollywood Suite, Saturday, Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. ET.

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Humour in the darkness

A PERFECT DAY

Del Toro tackles tricky role as an aid worker

The last time we saw Benicio Del Toro on screen he was starring in *Sicario* as a mercenary who collected a handsome paycheck while quenching his thirst for revenge against drug cartel leaders.

He was vicious and malicious, a supreme badass doing the right thing for the completely wrong reason.

That movie's dark and gritty examination of the drug-fuelled Mexico-U.S. border war stands in stark contrast to his new movie, the optimistically titled *A Perfect Day*.

"I do believe there is hope in *A Perfect Day*," he says. "I agree with you that *Sicario* is hopeless but in this one there is hope. I was finishing *A Perfect Day* when I went into *Sicario*. Perhaps that's one of the reasons *Sicario* was interesting, because it was the dark side of the coin."

Set in 1990s Balkans, Del Toro plays Mambrú, a misfit aid worker whose team (played by Tim Robbins and Olga Kurylenko among others) begin their day in the former Yugoslavia trying to remove a bloated corpse dumped in a well to contaminate the water. The task is complicated by United Nations bureaucracy and the lack of a strong enough rope forcing the crew to navigate not only landmine-ridden roads but their own complicated relationships in search of a solution.

Director Fernando León de Aranoa calls Del Toro the centerpiece of the film, adding, "Working with him means working with a creative partner."

"There are some ideas that



Benicio Del Toro plays a misfit aid worker working in the Balkans in the 1990s. CONTRIBUTED

can come from anywhere that are golden," Del Toro says on improvising on set.

"I would like to say that I wish I could recognize good ideas when they are out there whether they come from another actor or they come from myself."

"If there is a good idea I do believe that if you don't take advantage of it while you are making the film it'll be gone forever. If there is a good idea I am game to explore."

Del Toro, who is currently filming *Star Wars: Episode VIII*, says the script appealed to him because, it was about, "people trying to do good and just how complicated it can get, but with

elements of humour.... It was like a riddle to solve," he says.

"Can the movie balance these two things? I think it does. The darkness of the war and the job with the humour."

One point of reference was Robert Altman's black comedy *M*A*S*H* about medical personnel stationed at a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital during the Korean War. The actor says he discussed the 1970 movie, "with the director and Tim Robbins a little bit but the other film we talked about was *No Man's Land* by Danis Tanović. It takes place in that part of the world and deals with the comedy and the darkness. The comedy in a

ridiculous way."

More importantly, he met with his character's real-life counterparts. "I had met some aid workers and I will tell you, they all have a good sense of humour. They tell you some dark stories but they do have a sense of humour."

"It's a way of dealing with the darkness of their experiences and the pain. At the end of the day when you do a movie like this you learn about how valuable these people are."

"How courageous they are. Aid workers. Doctors Without Borders. How much energy and compassion for humans they have."

RICHARD CROUSE/FOR METRO

TRIPLE 9

Do you know who Anthony Mackie is?

Anthony Mackie has played everything from a bomb-defusing soldier in *The Hurt Locker* to a high-flying Falcon in the *Captain America* movies. The 37-year-old actor's latest sees him as a crooked cop in the heist thriller *Triple 9*. We caught up with Mackie to investigate why he's the most famous actor you've never heard of.

Police matters: Playing a cop is familiar ground for Mackie having played 1940s gumshoes (Gangster Squad) and FBI agents (Runner, Runner). It's a role the New Orleans native clearly respects.

"Playing a police officer is really interesting to me because there's the code of the shield,

it's a fraternity," said Mackie. "That was so important to me with this film — moreso than looking cool in a uniform or driving my car fast — it was showing that responsibility to that badge."

Mistaken identity: With over 40 films under his belt, Mackie is certainly recognizable — even if it's not always for his own work.

"When *The Wire* was on TV, the biggest joke was I was the most famous actor on *The Wire* who was never on *The Wire*," laughed Mackie about being confused with colleagues. "Now because of the whole Iron Man thing, I get Don Cheadle like once a day!"



Anthony Mackie CONTRIBUTED

Real fiction: In May, Mackie may be replicating civil rights icon Martin Luther King, Jr. in the HBO adaptation of hit play *All the Way* but the actor insists he's not intimidated by

real life roles.

"It's all about what the director gives you in the script because if the director writes it from a certain perspective, that character's going to be different than he was in real life," explained Mackie. "The reality is, I want you to come out of a movie thinking that guy was real and he lived a real life."

If it ended tomorrow: "I did this football movie which I loved and I never thought it got the attention it deserves (called) *We Are Marshall*," admitted Mackie of the role he wants to be most remembered for. "Call it arrogant or whatever but I was good in that movie!"

STEVE GOW/METRO

Imagine Dragons take you backstage

INTERVIEW

In making a concert movie, band looked at the Last Waltz

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



They may be one of today's hottest musical acts but before Imagine Dragons even planned to film a grandiose concert movie, they looked back at a rustic, old classic — The Last Waltz, a cinematic account of aged rockers' The Band's final concert from 1976.

"That's the film that let me understand the tone of all those rock n' rollers the best — seeing them in their element up on stage performing," recalls Dragons drummer Daniel Platzman from New York. "That was something that was really important to me going into this — trying to capture that feeling of the authentic concert-going experience."

Fans can soak up that authentic experience on March 2, when theatres across Canada premiere Imagine Dragons: Smoke + Mirrors Live — a colossal concert movie that features the Las Vegas quartet playing their biggest hits. Making the movie even more unique, the global hitmakers decided to document their show in Canada — specific-

ally, Toronto.

"Everytime we've come to Toronto we've been given an insane welcoming," insists the 29-year-old multi-platinum selling artist.

"Even before we were able to play at the Air Canada Centre, we remember playing clubs and everyone's just had a great attitude. So when timing for the film came up, it was the obvious choice."

As the film showcases, there are 15,000 screaming fans in Toronto that adore Imagine Dragons as well. And while many acts might've settled for selling that showpiece on iTunes or other digital formats, Imagine Dragons felt it was crucial to get their show onto the big screen.

"It was entirely a cinematic event for all of us," says Platzman. "We really wanted to bring that live experience as authentically to people in a movie theatre as we could (and) we're always trying to stay as true to the authentic show as possible."

Music fans should expect their favourite songs — from the band's hits Radioactive and Demons to an inspired take on an old 1984 classic. In fact, Imagine Dragons have covered all the bases, even the one thing all concert movies should have — a bombastic drum solo.

"I agree," Platzman laughs. "More drum solos in general would make the world a better place."



For this concert movie, which opens in theatres March 2, Imagine Dragons took footage from their show in Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

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MOVIES

Two other must-see concert movies

The Last Waltz (1978):

The Band knew how to go out with a bang. After deciding to split up after years of backing up Bob Dylan and finding their own success, they enlisted legend Martin Scorsese to film their farewell concert.

Woodstock (1970):

The official film of the iconic 1960's music festival, Woodstock features Joe Cocker, Jimi Hendrix and all the musical greats of the era playing to a big mud field full of naked flower children. Truly, a once-in-a-lifetime concert film experience.

STEVE GOW/METRO



5 BEST SPOTS FOR SCUBA DIVING IN CUBA

Over the past 25 years, 80 per cent of the Caribbean's reefs have either died or have severely degraded. However, the lack of economic development and restrictions placed on offshore activities in Cuba, along with a smattering of environmental policies, have saved the coral reefs around the island. Here's five of the best spots. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



1 Jardines de la Reina

The spectacular Jardines de la Reina is the premier dive destination for the Caribbean. It's enclosed in a marine protected area that's 170 kilometres long and 10 kms wide, and it has the healthiest coral reef ecosystem in the Caribbean. Only 500 scuba divers per year are permitted to dive in this undersea paradise. If you can only go on one dive trip in the Caribbean, this is it.



2 Cayo Largo

If you don't want to put any effort in getting to your dive vacation, Cayo Largo is a great option, as there are direct flights from Canada. You will land close to your hotel and the marina. The dive charters run efficiently, and it's a short sail to the dive sites along the nearby barrier reefs.



3 Bay of Pigs

If you're fascinated by Cold War history and wall diving that drops 450 metres into the abyss, then the Bay of Pigs is your place. The best dive sites are only a two-minute swim from shore, and they're located between the towns of Playa Larga and Playa Giron. Home to 17 varieties of flat coral, both hard and soft, the deeper you dive, the wider the coral get.



4 Isle of Youth

Punta Frances Marine National Park is tucked away on the remote southwestern tip of the Isle of Youth and formed around a peninsula with protected, white, sun-drenched sandy beaches. The reefs here are in good shape and the fish populations diverse.



5 Trinidad de Cuba

Southwest of Trinidad de Cuba, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along a starkly beautiful stretch of coastline, there is an area of wall diving with colourful coral and beautiful fish. The walls are punctuated with meandering canyons in parts, some of which turn into beautiful tunnels with coral-overhang where sharks can be seen.

PROTECTION

Tourists welcome here — sort of

News that Italy's Cinque Terre is set to implement a ticketing system that limits the number of tourists who visit the area is the latest reminder of the privileges and pitfalls that have come with increasingly accessible airfares and mass tourism.

Cinque Terre, located in the Liguria region of Italy, is the latest tourist destination that has been forced to put a cap on tourists in a bid to preserve the integrity of its natural surroundings in the wake of explosive visitor numbers over the last few years.

Last week, a spokesman for

the national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site announced that as of this summer, visitors will have to buy an advance ticket online in order to gain access to the cliffside trails which connect the five fishing villages. Here are a few other destinations that have either implemented tourist caps or are considering it.

Machu Picchu

In a bid to preserve and protect Peru's fabled and ancient, mountaintop ruins, the country has developed a new reconceptualization project that imposes

time limits as a means to control crowd flow and requires visitors to hire an official guide for the trail.

Antarctica

To protect one of the few, final frontiers unspoiled by human activity and tourism, The Antarctic Treaty restricts ships with more than 500 passengers from landing sites.

Galapagos Islands

Described as a "living museum and showcase of evolution," the collection of 19 islands which

make up the Galapagos Islands groaned under the pressure of unsustainable tourism numbers over the years, putting it on the United Nations' list of endangered heritage sites. Today, a conservation program has successfully helped it make a solid recovery. To visit, tourists must now be accompanied by a licensed Galapagos National Park Guide and abide by strict rules when visiting the area. Camping is also allowed in only a handful of authorized areas, and requires a permit from park officials.

AFF



Picturesque Cinque Terre is joining places like Antarctica and the Galapagos Islands in looking to limit the number of tourists it takes. ISTOCK

TRAVEL NOTES NEW YORK-PARIS, B.C. AND THE GREAT NORTH

Norwegian to fly New York to Paris nonstop with fares from \$175 U.S.

The Norway-based budget airline will start flying a nonstop Paris-New York route with introductory fares starting at \$175 US from July 29. Norwegian is also opening Paris-U.S. routes connecting the French capital with Los Angeles and Fort Lauderdale. Although Norwegian is the first carrier to offer such attractive fares between Paris and New York, it isn't the first airline to drive down prices on the popular route. AFP

International tourism to B.C. increasing, province says

The British Columbia government says the number of international visitors to the province is increasing and France is in the top spot on a list of seven countries and regions. Almost 360,000 more international visitors came to the province in 2015, with the total number approaching five million. The ministry is crediting its marketing strategy, along with the province's aboriginal tourism sector and more direct flights. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec to spend \$36 million on northern wilderness park

The Quebec government says it will spend \$36 million to develop Parc national d'Opémican, a 252-square-kilometre tract of lakes, rivers and old pine forests in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region along the Ontario border. The work, expected to be completed in about three years, will include the creation of a main park hub, Pointe-Opémican, on Lac Temiscamingue.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Norwegian will start flying a New York-Paris route with fares from \$175 U.S. HANDOUT



A deer spotted on Grouse mountain in Vancouver. ISTOCK



Parc national d'Opémican is getting an upgrade. ISTOCK

The cocktail capital of Canada?

BOOZE

Vancouver raises the bar as a libation destination

On a rainy evening inside an illuminated geodesic dome that adds sparkle to Vancouver's skyline, queues of gussied-up socialites are forming at 25 beverage stations manned by award-winning bartenders.

Patrons of the Science World fundraiser are sipping Mai Tai vapour through straws at one station and shooting glow-in-the-dark gin and tonics at another.

"That's the thing about Vancouver — the culture demands more from bartenders," says Tarquin Melnyk, who runs the bar for Bambudda restaurant.

The inaugural Science of Cocktails charity, which ran in early February with proceeds providing underfunded schools free access to the landmark science centre, is a testament to Vancouver's



Bartender Trevor Kallies prepares a smoked boulevardier cocktail. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

spirited drinking scene. Organizers easily served up praise that Vancouver may very well be the cocktail capital of Canada.

Jennifer Ingham, vice-president of development with Science World believes the city's reputation for lame and cold nightlife is evaporating. "I think the city is becoming less 'no fun.'" The West Coast metropolis already boasts a renowned panoply of bars and restaurants clustered in distinct neighbourhoods from the swish Gastown to hipster Main Street.

But the city's cocktail resurgence proper started in the mid-2000s, as a small community keen to move beyond pulling pints and slinging highballs began crystallizing, said Trevor Kallies, president of the Canadian Professional Bartenders Association.

"No one asks me what I'm going to do when I grow up anymore. They know I'm still a bartender, they know I love what I do and they know it's working. People are getting it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mooseheads lose again, not 'for lack of effort'

QM/JHL

Ducharme lists positives after being shut out by Sea Dogs

Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

The underdogs stepped it up against the Sea Dogs on Thursday night, but according to head coach Dominique Ducharme, his Halifax Mooseheads "just couldn't finish."

The Herd were blanked 2-0 by the hosting Saint John Sea Dogs in front of 3,671 spectators at Harbour Station.

Winger Mathieu Joseph cracked the scoreboard midway through the first, and following a scoreless second period, centre Joe Veleno made it a two-goal game early in the third.

Saint John netminder Alex Bishop earned the shutout with 32 saves.

"It was a tight game," Ducharme said. "We played well."

Despite the fact that the Sea Dogs lead the Maritimes Division and sit third overall in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, the bottom-dwelling Mooseheads seemed to put their best skates forward Friday night.

Goaltender Eric Brassard



Mooseheads goaltender Eric Brassard made 34 saves in Friday night's road loss to the Saint John Sea Dogs. JEFF HARPER/METRO

made 34 saves to help keep the Mooseheads, who are languishing in sixth and last place in the Maritimes Division and 17th (or second-last) overall, in the game.

"Eric played well," Ducharme said. "He was solid."

Thursday night's backup

goalie for the Herd looked a little different. With Kevin Resop "a little under the weather this week," according to the Halifax Mooseheads website, management brought in prospect Ryan Huestis of Wellington, a rookie with the Valley Wildcats of the Maritime Hockey League.

He signed as a free agent with the Mooseheads last season following "an impressive season" with the Cole Harbour Wolfpack.

Ducharme said staff will see how Resop feels over the next couple of days and then decide if they'll bring back

+ UP NEXT

The Halifax Mooseheads have a rematch against the Saint John Sea Dogs this Saturday night. The puck drops at 7 p.m. inside the Scotiabank Centre.

Huestis for Saturday night's rematch against the Sea Dogs, this time with the Mooseheads on home ice.

"We did a lot of things right," said Ducharme, whose Herd outshot the Sea Dogs in the first period and killed off a five-minute major penalty in the second.

"We had a great goalie, we had 2-on-1s, we had chances at the net."

Other highlights for fans included a fight between Halifax enforcer Kelly Bent and Saint John's Bokondji Imama, who were facing each other for the first time since a Dec. 11 brawl in Halifax that ended with a 15-game suspension for Imama and five-game ban for Bent.

Herd import forward Ilya Putintsev created several strong offensive chances, while veteran Maxime Fortier was denied a potential Moose goal on a breakaway.

"We didn't finish," Ducharme said, "but it wasn't for lack of effort."

AUS HOCKEY

Game 1 regret for Huskies

The Saint Mary's Huskies had a rough start to their semifinal men's playoff series against the St. Francis Xavier X-Men.

The Huskies, who finished fourth in the Atlantic University Sport in the regular season, fell 2-0 on Thursday night to the X-Men, who finished second to earn their bye to semifinals.

The Huskies beat the Moncton Aigles Bleus in a best-of-three semifinal series to advance.

On Thursday night, Brett Turnbull scored in the first and Holden Cook notched one on the power play in the third to give the X-Men the Game 1 win in the best-of-five series.

Goaltender Drew Owsley made 30 saves for the X-Men.

Huskies netminder Cole Cheveldave also made 30 saves.

"We just weren't the same team that we were last series," head coach Trevor Stienburg said.

"The guys would like to have that one back."

The Huskies will have a chance to even the score Saturday night in Antigonish.

"We'll just have to turn the page and move on," Stienburg said. KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

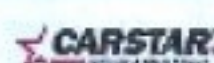
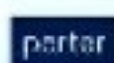
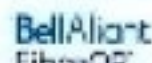
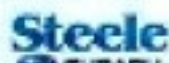
+ WOMEN'S

The puck drops on the women's semifinals when the Saint Mary's Huskies host the St. Francis Xavier X-Women on Saturday night.

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Gerard Gallant, centre, has the Florida Panthers on pace for their best-ever regular-season finish. JOEL AUERBACH/GETTY IMAGES

Panthers are purring

NHL

Florida under Gallant are exceeding expectations

The Florida Panthers didn't expect to be this good this soon.

Dale Tallon was hopeful at the start of his sixth season as Florida's general manager, but even he didn't anticipate the Panthers leading the Atlantic Division with the second-best record in the Eastern Conference at this stage in February.

"You just never know," Tallon said recently from Florida. "Exceeding expectations? It's hard to say. I would probably say I'm leaning towards that a little bit, yeah."

The Panthers are on their way to just their fourth post-season appearance in the last 20 years and on pace to obliterate franchise records for wins and points.

Florida is following a similar path recently taken by the Chicago Blackhawks, the team Tallon helped build into a modern-day dynasty. Tallon sees similarities between the roster he's build-

ing in the Sunshine State and the one that rose from obscurity to three-time Cup winner in Chicago.

"Yeah, very similar," Tallon said. "We're just a bit bigger."

Much like the Blackhawks of earlier days, the Panthers boast an intriguing young core led by 20-year-olds Aleksander Barkov and Aaron Ekblad, the latter winning the Calder Trophy last year.

Add to the mix centre Vincent Trocheck and former third overall pick Jonathan Huberdeau and it's easy to see reasons for optimism. Also owed credit for the Panthers rise is Gerald Gallant, the team's second-year head coach and a likely Jack Adams coach of the year candidate.

The Panthers GM thinks his coach — formerly an assistant in Montreal and head coach for three seasons with the QMJHL's St. John Sea Dogs — has been especially effective at bridging the team's generational gap. Florida has six players 34 years and older to go along with those who were recently teenagers.

"He's just a coach that goes to bat for his players," Panthers goalie Roberto Luongo. "Guys respect that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOTTIES TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS

Alberta's Carey secures playoff berth

Alberta's Chelsea Carey not only clinched a playoff berth at the Canadian women's curling championship Thursday, she also earned a spot in the playoff game between the top two seeds.

The host province downed Nova Scotia's Jill Brothers 8-2 to get to a record of 8-2. With one game remaining in the preliminary round, Carey's team from Calgary was guaranteed a top-two finish.

The top four teams advance

to the Page playoff with ties for fourth place solved by tiebreaker games.

The teams finishing first and second in the round robin meet in Friday's playoff game with the winner advancing directly to Sunday's final and the loser dropping to Saturday's semifinal. The winner of the game between the third and fourth seeds gets into

the semifinal.

Northern Ontario's Krista McCarville was still in the playoff hunt at 6-3 following a 10-3 victory over B.C.'s Karla Thompson.

Defending champion Jennifer Jones was 6-2 and Manitoba's Kerri Einarson 5-3 with three games remaining in the round robin. Saskatchewan's Jolene Campbell was still

in tiebreaker contention at 6-4. Campbell defeated Stacie Curtis of Newfoundland and Labrador 8-4. Prince Edward Island's Suzanne Birt and Ontario's Jenn Hanna were both 4-4.

Quebec's Marie-France Larouche dropped a 6-5 decision to New Brunswick's Sylvie Robitaille to drop to 4-5. Nova Scotia fell to 5-5 with the loss to Alberta. Newfoundland was 3-7 and New Brunswick was 2-7. B.C. fell to 1-8. THE CANADIAN PRESS

8-2

Alberta's record with one game remaining.

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IN BRIEF

United rout Midtjylland

Teenager Marcus Rashford scored twice for Manchester United on his debut in a 5-1 win over FC Midtjylland, sparing the English giant an embarrassing Europa League exit Thursday.

Rashford, 18, only found out he was starting minutes before kickoff. United won 6-3 on aggregate to reach the last 16. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relaxed A-Rod ready to go

Alex Rodriguez arrived at spring training at ease. He reported last February after missing 2014 while serving a suspension for drug violations. And he was sidelined for most of 2013 following hip surgery. This year, no such issues for the 40-year-old, coming off his first season as a full-time designated hitter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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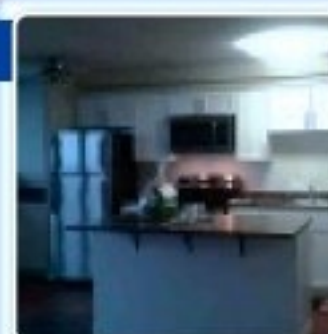
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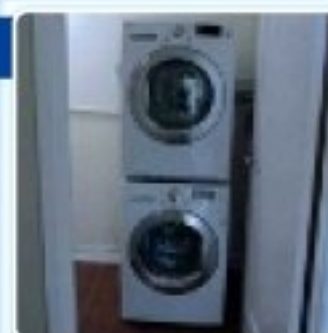
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RECIPE Eggs, Asparagus & Couscous



PHOTO: MAYA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This is almost not a recipe at all, which come Friday night is what we all need, right? Tell yourself you're experimenting with one of those trendy grain bowls. Or just sit down and enjoy a speedy dinner.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 cup couscous
- 16 asparagus spears
- 4 eggs (very fresh poach best)
- 2 tsp vinegar
- Parsley or chives, chopped

Directions

1. Get three pots of water boiling. One with just a bit of water for the asparagus, a very shallow pan for

the eggs and 2 cups of salted water in a pot for the couscous.

2. Add couscous to boiling water and stir. It will take up a lot of water right away. After a couple minutes, turn off heat and put the lid on the pot. Leave couscous aside to absorb remaining water.

3. Now, poach your eggs. Add vinegar to boiling water. Crack eggs into ramekins. Tip the eggs into the simmering water. Turn off heat, cover the pan and leave alone for 5 minutes.

4. In your third pot, put trimmed asparagus in boiling water until they're tender — about 3 to 5 minutes. Drain and rinse in cool water to stop them from cooking.

5. Spoon couscous onto your plate, lay down four spears of asparagus then scoop eggs out of the water with a slotted spoon and lay on top. Garnish with chives and salt and pepper.

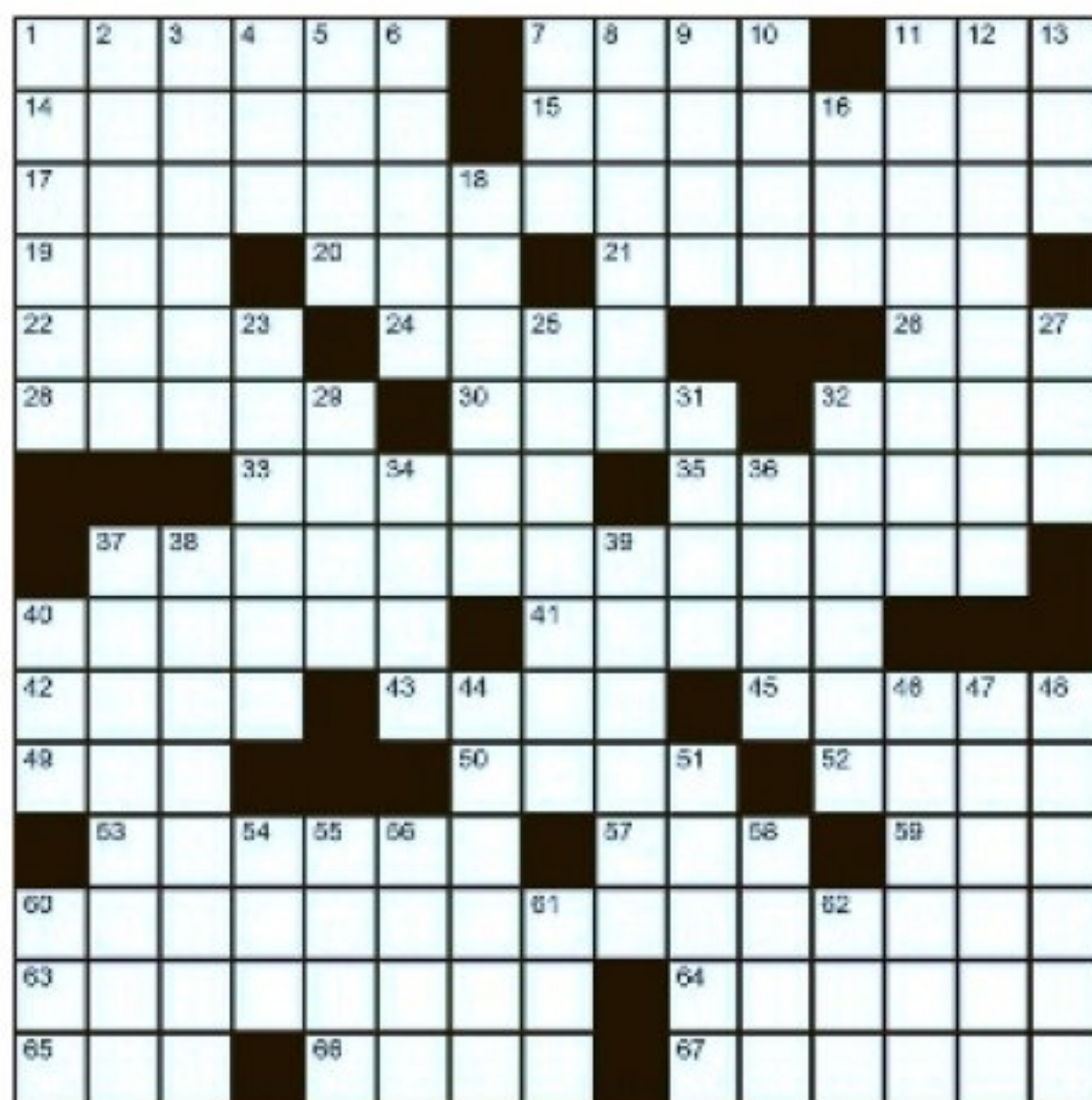
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1. "Mutual of _ Wild Kingdom"
7. Money _ object
11. EMT's skill
14. Backstreet Boys: "All I _ Give"
15. Tofu: 2 wds.
17. Rapunzel and Rumpelstiltskin: 2 wds.
19. Profession, puny-ly
20. Down
21. Magistrates' mallets
22. Mr. LaBeouf
24. Sprint
26. Mag. edition
28. Actress Katharine
30. Volkswagen Karmann _
32. Person of the Arctic
33. " _ Was a Lady" (1945)
35. As per #37-Down, Canadian diamond producer which found the world's second-largest gem quality diamond in November of 2015
37. Extra extras are needed on a movie set for one: 3 wds.
40. Piano piece
41. English slammers
42. Web address starter
43. "House" role, Dr. Chris _
45. French operas composer, Daniel _ (b.1782 - d.1871)
49. "The 18th letter is known _ _"



50. Frankenfoods ingredients, commonly
52. Cornmeal bread
53. Outfitted one
57. Craze
59. Post-op locale
60. Though David Wei-er designed it in 1964, it only became one of

- Canada's official symbols in 2011: 3 wds.
63. Cold sufferer
64. 'B.' of Samuel F.B. Morse
65. Meander
66. Pericles, Prince of _
67. Replied positively

DOWN

1. "Goodness me.": 2 wds.
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3. Swedish DJ/producer
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5. 24-hr. bankers
6. To date: 2 wds.

7. There: Latin
8. Composer Mr. Rachmaninoff
9. Quebec water brand
10. A-ha's "The Sun Always Shines _ _"
11. The world's largest gem quality diamond, found in South Af-
12. Stress causer
13. Shortened streets
16. Flight simulators co.
18. Leisurely music tempo
23. Multi-married-man/Newest-wife separator: 2 wds.
25. Enjoy a stick of Juicy Fruit: 2 wds.
27. Music style
29. Milky tip to 'ose'
31. Plus
32. Becomes frozen: 2 wds.
34. "Darn it!"
36. Calif. campus
37. Country in Africa where #35-Across' Karowe Mine is located
38. Fearless
39. Lightly remove a stain: 2 wds.
40. _ Na Na
44. Concurring person
46. Boxes: French
47. Box in
48. Met with former classmates
51. Didn't help: 2 wds.
54. Planet Melmac alien
55. Looted, archaically
56. For Better or For Worse mom
58. Challenge
60. Lettered food additive
61. 'Is', plurally
62. CV

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You want to feel that you're doing something useful with your life and with Uranus strong in your sign it's up to you to make that happen. Don't do it alone though, there are others who share your ideals.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Do something that gets you noticed and marks you both as a free thinker and person of action. Don't wait for opportunities to come to you, get out there and grab them yourself.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you get the chance to travel today you must take it, even if it means breaking other plans. People you meet while on the move will bring you luck — and maybe love too!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will have to make a number of quick decisions today. Trust your instincts and they are more likely to be smart decisions. Don't worry if some people make fun of your ideas.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
It may be frustrating that others are putting obstacles in your path but there is no point making a fuss. Just carry on as you are and believe that you will reach your goal when the time is right — and you will.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You could push yourself too hard today and over the weekend and put your wellbeing at risk. A simple rule of thumb: make sure you stay fit and healthy — don't go to extremes.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is virtually nothing you cannot do but that does not mean you are obliged to do everything. Identify the two or three aims, then focus on them to the exclusion of everything else. Success will surely follow.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you rise to the challenges that face you today you'll find ways to overcome. Family ties will work in your favour, so let loved ones know what you need.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Come and go as you please today and over the weekend. Once you get over the fear that others might disapprove of your actions there is nothing that can hold you back.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It feels as if something important is leaving your life but don't worry because something better will replace it. Remember that you deserve the best — because then you will get it.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun left your birth sign a week ago but that does not mean your luck has changed. On the contrary, where money matters are concerned everything seems in order. Put some cash aside for a rainy day.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Your mind is being overwhelmed by so senseless chatter. Find a quiet place where you can be on your own, a sacred spot where you can get your thoughts together.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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